

TRANSLATION**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY****PCT****INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P02.16 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/000161	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.01.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 25.01.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01M3/20		
Applicant INFICON GMBH		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:	
a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:	
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).	
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1-8 _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

nos. 1-19 _____ as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the drawings:

sheets 1/3-3/3 _____ as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (specify): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
1. This report makes reference to the following documents:			
D1: DE-A-3124205			
D2: US-A-5707213			
2. NOVELTY			
Document D1 is considered to constitute the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (the references in parentheses are to that document):			
a leak detection device (1) with an inlet (2), a high-vacuum pump (15), a test gas detector (14) connected to the entrance of the high-vacuum pump (15), a pre-vacuum pump (4) connected to the exit zone of the high-vacuum pump (15), and a test gas pipe (5, 5') which extends between the inlet (2) of the leak detection device (1) and the pre-vacuum pump (4), and which is in communication with the exit zone of the high-vacuum pump (15) by means of a pipe section (7), the pipe (7) and the pre-vacuum pump (4) being connected by the connection (6) to the exit zone of the high-vacuum pump (15).			

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The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from the known disclosure of D1 in that the pipe (7) and pre-vacuum pump (4) are connected by separate connections to the exit zone of the high-vacuum pump (15).

The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

3. INVENTIVE STEP

The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of developing simple and effective solutions to shorten reaction time.

The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:

Document D2 (the references in parentheses are to that document) discloses a molecular vacuum pump for conveying gas and generating a pressure ratio, in which an additional gas inlet (14) is provided between the intake flange (10) and the gas outlet (11) for providing a cooling gas (such as helium) for cooling the pump. Consequently, document D2 discloses a high-vacuum pump having the same features as the present application, namely the fact that the gas inlet (14) and the gas outlet (11) are connected to the pre-vacuum zone and are arranged opposite one another.

However, document D2 does not mention the possibility to use the high-vacuum pump in a leak detection device.

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

Moreover, the countercurrent principle described in the present application is not used, and therefore the technical problem which consists in shortening reaction time is neither present nor mentioned.

Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by documents D1 and D2 and can thus be considered inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).

Claims 2-19 are dependent on claim 1 and thus also meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.

4. INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The subject matter of claim 1 and the subjects of dependent claims 2-19 meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(4).